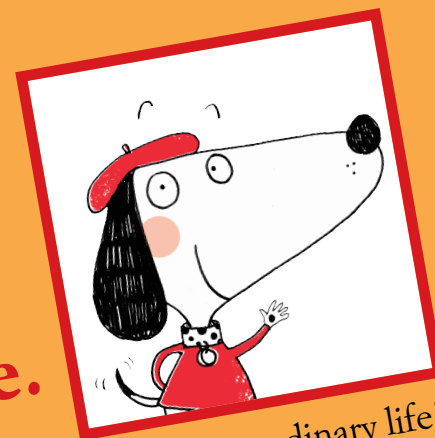


www.peachtree-online.com



Meet
Claude.



He's no ordinary dog—he leads an extraordinary life!
When his owners rush off to work for the day,
Claude decides what adventure he will have.

What will
happen
today?



After briefly considering careers in space travel, cookery, and being a rabbit, Alex T. Smith finally decided to become an illustrator. He has written and illustrated several books for children, including *CLAUDE IN THE CITY*, *CLAUDE AT THE CIRCUS*, *CLAUDE ON THE BEACH*, *CLAUDE IN THE SPOTLIGHT*, and *CLAUDE IN THE COUNTRY*. He lives in England.

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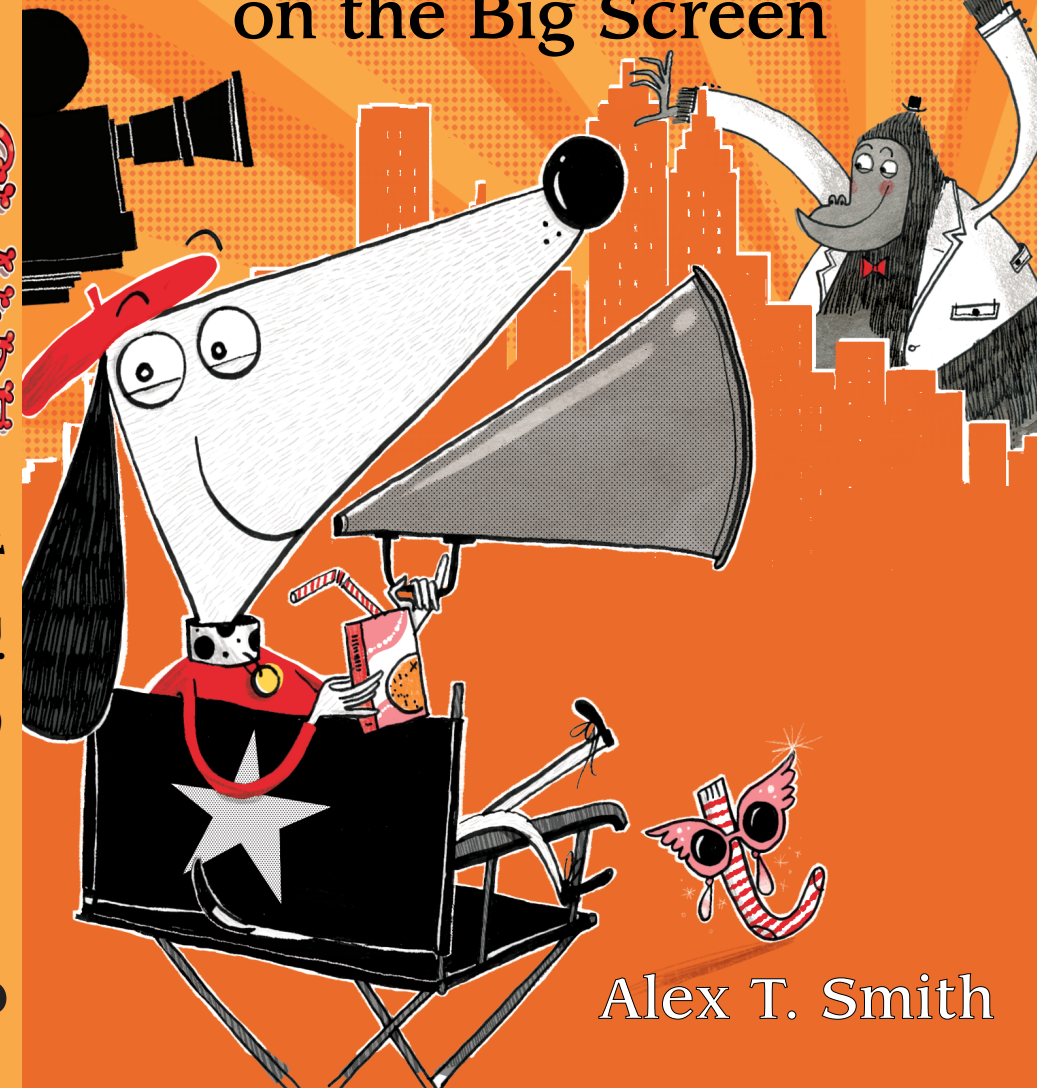


SMITH

CLAUDE on the Big Screen



CLAUDE

on the Big Screen



Alex T. Smith

978-1-68263-009-9

\$12.95



Have you met
Claude?
Here he is now.

This is his best friend,
Sir Bobblysock. He is 
both a sock and quite bobbly.

When Claude spots a film crew on Waggy Avenue, he and Sir Bobblysock can't wait to help behind the scenes. But when the movie loses its stars, the pals are launched onto the big screen!

PEACHTREE
ATLANTA



How to Rescue a Gorilla:

1. Gain their trust by complimenting them.

**I
LIKE
YOUR
FACE!**

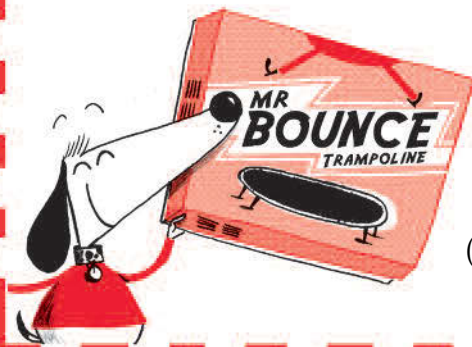


2. Try to persuade them



down by wagging a tempting
banana ^{or two} at them.

3. Suggest they leap to safety onto the handy trampoline you keep under your hat.



4. If all else fails, phone the fire brigade and/or a helpful grown-up (if you know any).



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CLAUDE

On the Big Screen



ALEX T. SMITH


PEACHTREE
ATLANTA



Chapter 1

In a house on Waggy Avenue,
number 112 to be exact,
there lives a dog named Claude.

Claude is a dog.
Claude is a small dog.
Claude is a small, plump dog
who wears the snazziest of
sweaters and a jaunty red beret.



Claude lives with his best friend
Sir Bobblysock, who is both a sock
and quite bobbly.

He also lives with Mr. and Mrs.
Shinyshoes.



Every day Claude waits for them
to shout “Cheerio!” and skip out
of the door to work, then he and
Sir Bobblysock have an adventure.

Where will our two chums go
today?

Chapter 2

One morning (it was a Thursday) Claude was in the garden with his beret on, and he was being VERY busy and important.

Sir Bobblysock was out there too, lying on a sun chair with his cardigan around his shoulders.

It was the first time he'd been out of the house for a week, as he'd had a chill all down one side.

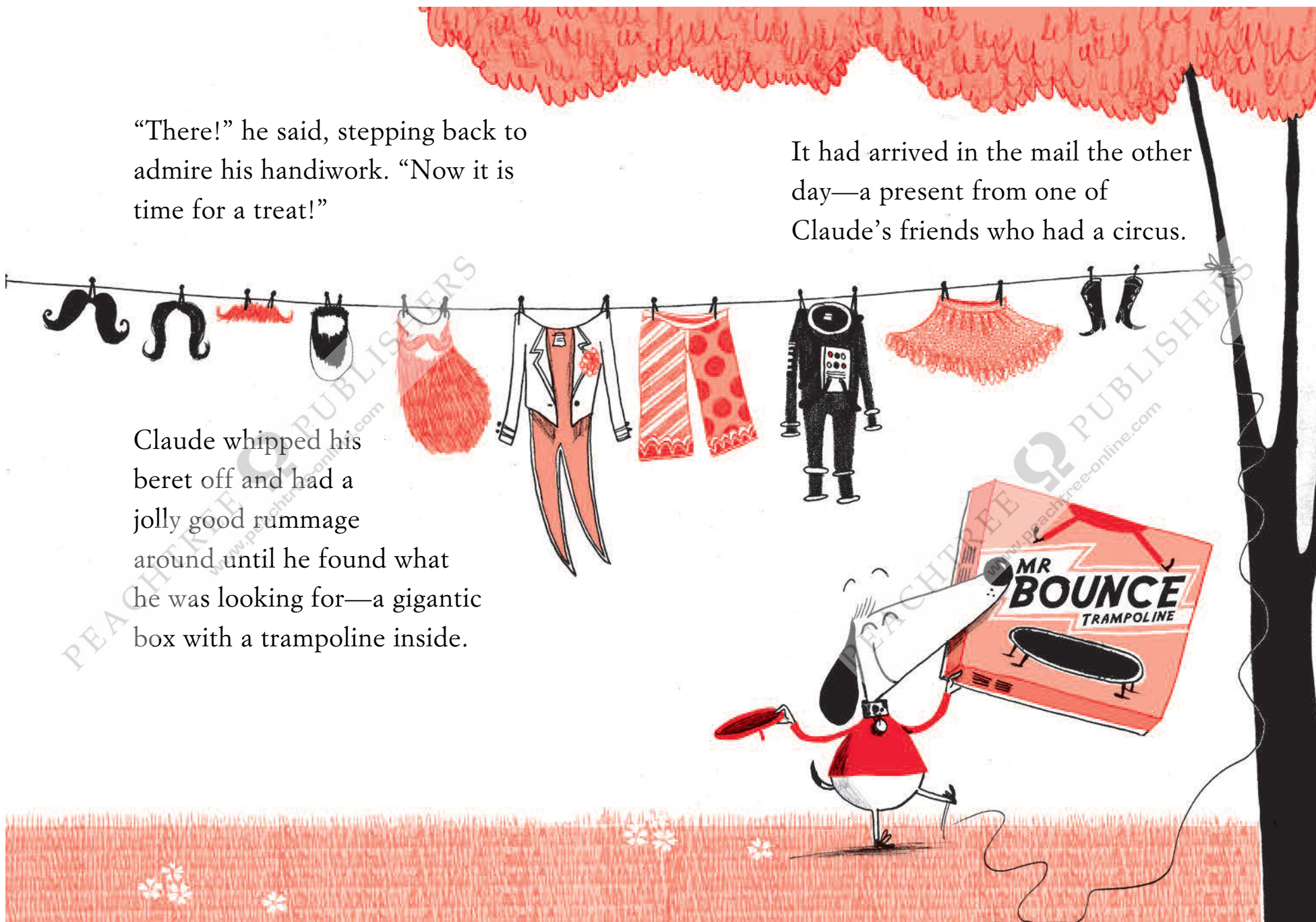
Claude was busily and importantly hanging out all his costumes to dry.

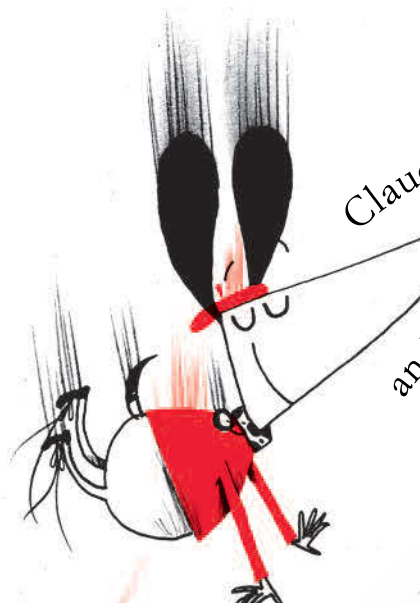


“There!” he said, stepping back to admire his handiwork. “Now it is time for a treat!”

It had arrived in the mail the other day—a present from one of Claude’s friends who had a circus.

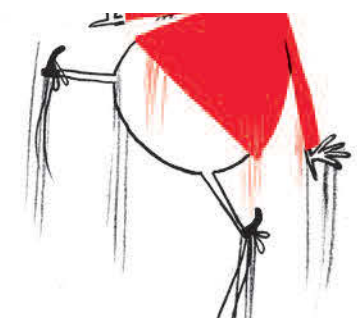
Claude whipped his beret off and had a jolly good rummage around until he found what he was looking for—a gigantic box with a trampoline inside.



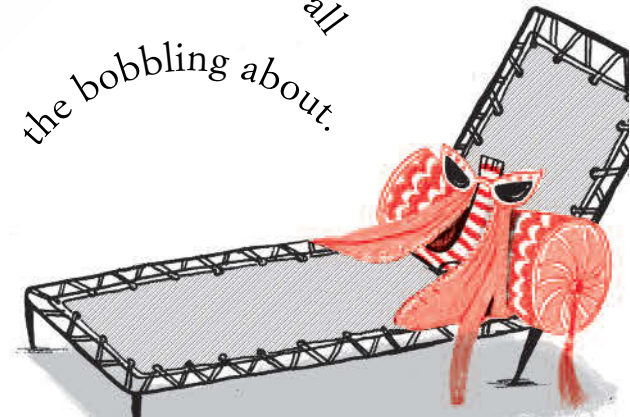


Claude set up the trampoline
and started to bounce.

Up and down Claude went, high up in the air.
His ears flapped about
beautifully behind him.



“Come and have a go!” Claude called to Sir Bobbysock.
Sir Bobbysock said that he’d love to,
but he’d just had a pastry and
didn’t want it coming back up again with all
the bobbling about.



Claude continued to bounce. The higher he got, the more he could see of Waggy Avenue.

There was Miss Highkick-Spin jazz-stepping her way to the dance studio.



And there was Mr. Lovelybuns sprucing up his buns.



And there was a giant
gorilla in a dressing gown,
drinking a cup of tea.



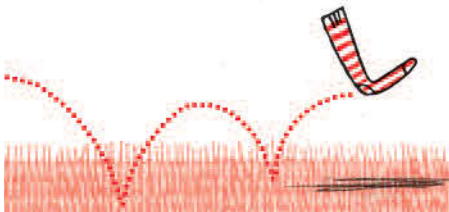


What on earth was a giant gorilla doing on Waggy Avenue?

Claude's eyebrows started to waggle. His bottom started to wobble, and his tail began to wag so fast it was a blur.

Quickly, Claude stopped bouncing and stashed the trampoline back in his beret.

"I am going to investigate this gorilla!" he cried, and ran off with Sir Bobblysock bouncing along behind him.



Unfortunately, in his excitement to find out what was going on, Claude managed to get his foot caught in a dangly bit of the clothesline and—
TWAAAANNNGGGGG!—
the whole thing fell down.



“Oh bother!” he said and quickly stuffed all his costumes back in his beret without even taking them off the line.

Then Claude and Sir Bobblysock went through the front door, down the steps, and out onto Waggy Avenue.



Chapter 3

Oh my! Was there ever such a lot to take in! Claude had never seen Waggy Avenue quite like this before.

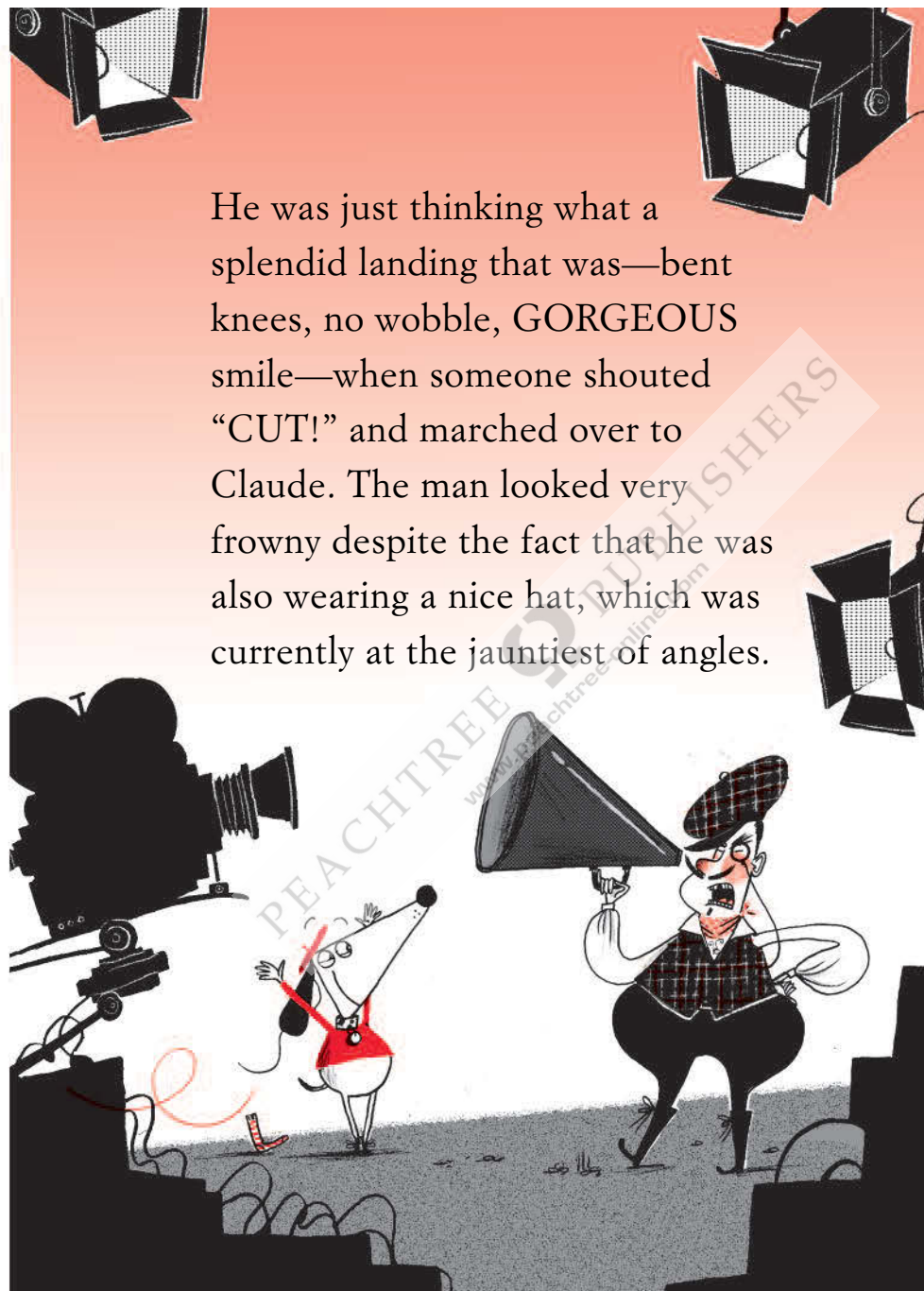
Everywhere he and Sir Bobblysock looked there were gigantic spotlights, whirring cameras, and big fluffy microphones poking out.





Claude was just ogling at it all, when he tripped over a bit of clothesline that had escaped from his beret. Three somersaults later, he landed SMACK BANG in front of one of the film cameras!

He was just thinking what a splendid landing that was—bent knees, no wobble, GORGEOUS smile—when someone shouted “CUT!” and marched over to Claude. The man looked very frowny despite the fact that he was also wearing a nice hat, which was currently at the jauntiest of angles.



“What are you doing!?” cried the man. “Can’t you see that we are in the middle of making a film? You just tumbled into our shot!”

Claude quickly stuffed the dangly bit of clothesline back under his beret, smoothed his sweater down over his tummy, and said “sorry” in his nicest voice. This seemed to make the man with the megaphone much happier.



“It’s OK,” he said. “It was only a rehearsal. My name is Everard Zoom-Lens, and I am directing this film called *Gorilla Thriller*! It stars these two actors here—Errol Heart-Throb and Gloria Swoon.”



Claude introduced himself and Sir Bobblysock. Claude told Gloria Swoon that he liked her dangly earrings. Sir Bobblysock went a bit pink when Errol Heart-Throb shook his hand and felt ever so glad he'd put his curlers in the night before.



"And this is our wonderful gorilla," said Everard. "His name is Alan."

The enormous gorilla stood up and gave Claude and Sir Bobblysock a very dramatic bow.

He'd been classically trained.



“Would you like to watch us make our film?” asked Gloria.

Claude had never seen a film being made before so said, “Yes please!” in his Outdoor Voice. Sir Bobblysock had seen one before, years ago, but that’s a different story.

“You can sit yourself down there and watch,” said Everard Zoom-Lens. “There’s lots for us to do before we can start filming properly.”

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So Claude and Sir Bobblysock settled themselves down and watched closely as Errol Heart-Throb, Gloria Swoon, and the gorilla rehearsed their scene.

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Chapter 4

From what Claude could gather, the film was about a giant gorilla who had escaped from the jungle and was now hoofing up the side of a building while waggling Gloria Swoon about in one of his gigantic hands. Errol had to rescue her by being very handsome and brave.

It was terribly exciting.



“Right!” said Everard eventually.
“Everyone take five!”

Everyone shuffled off to their trailers to prepare for the afternoon’s filming, leaving Claude and Sir Bobblysock alone.

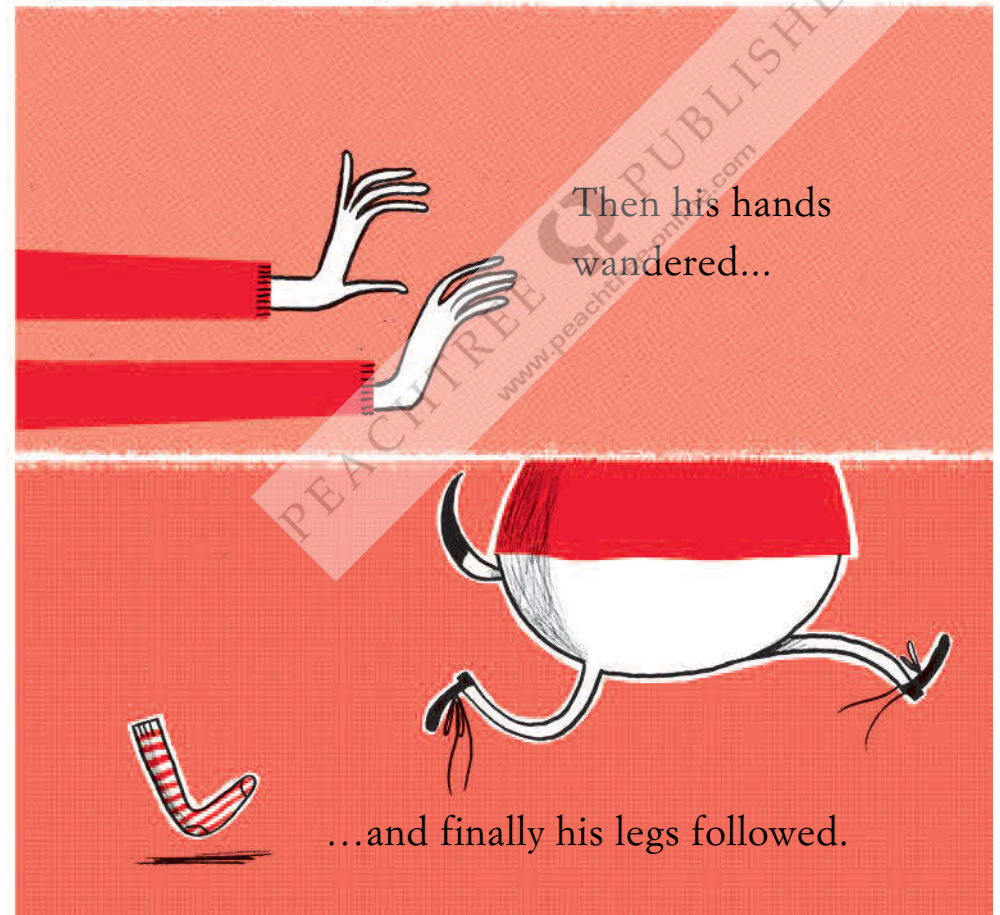
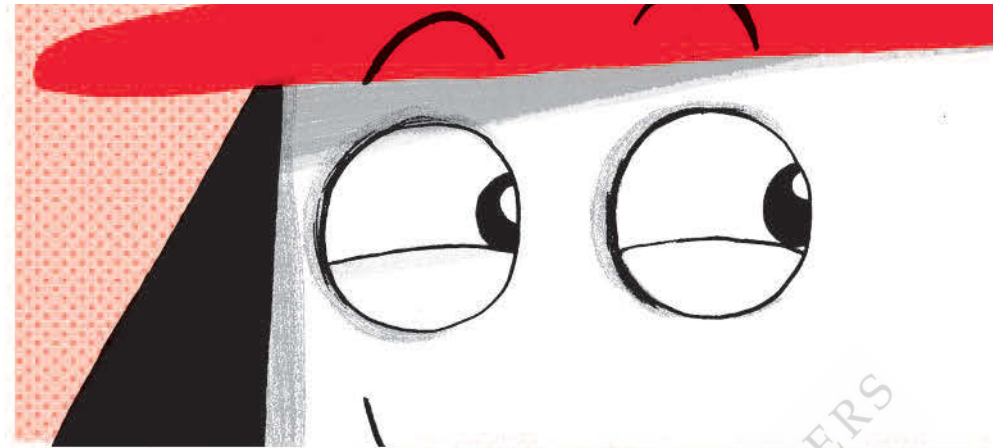
First, Claude sat on his seat
and slurped a juice carton.
Sir Bobblysock nibbled a fig roll.



Then Claude swung his legs
for a bit and sighed.

Sitting down and waiting was
awfully boring sometimes.

Soon, Claude's eyes started
to wander...



Then his hands
wandered...

...and finally his legs followed.



He was just sneaking back to his seat after some terrific snooping when a bit of the clothesline escaped from under his hat again.

“This is going to cause a terrible accident,” he said. Claude tried to stuff it back under his beret, but it managed to wrap itself around one of his feet and...



Yowzer!

This time, Claude's landing
wasn't anywhere near as splendid.

But at least his bottom
found somewhere soft to plop...

...on a

big

box of wigs!



Wigs, Claude discovered, were hairstyles that weren't attached to heads, which meant that you could try as many on as you wanted.

Claude thought he looked lovely with a full head of soft waves.





Sir Bobblysock
decided to keep it
all very casual.

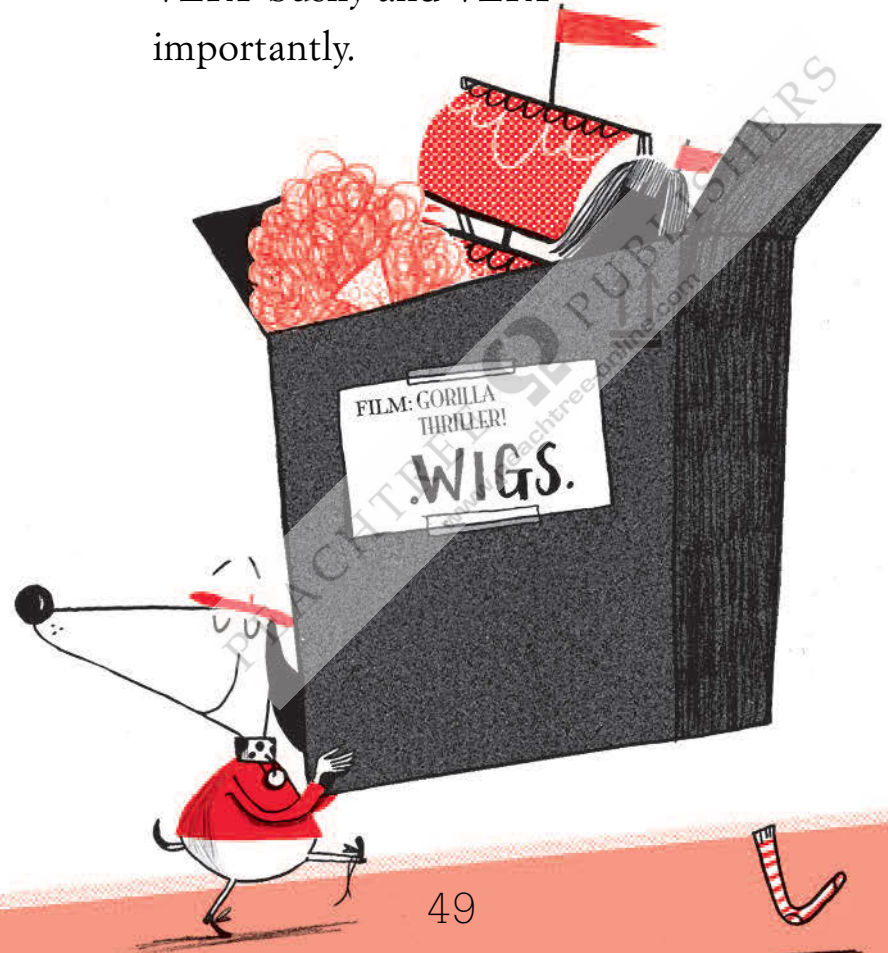
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Chapter 5

There you are!" said Everard Zoom-Lens. "And you've found the wigs! Good! Would you be so kind as to help get them on the actors so we can start filming?"



The two pals helped the actors put on their wigs. They did it VERY busily and VERY importantly.



Errol Heart-Throb
had one with a
curlicue. He
also had quite
a ravishing fake
mustache.



Gloria Swoon
wore a blonde
wig full of
bouncy curls.

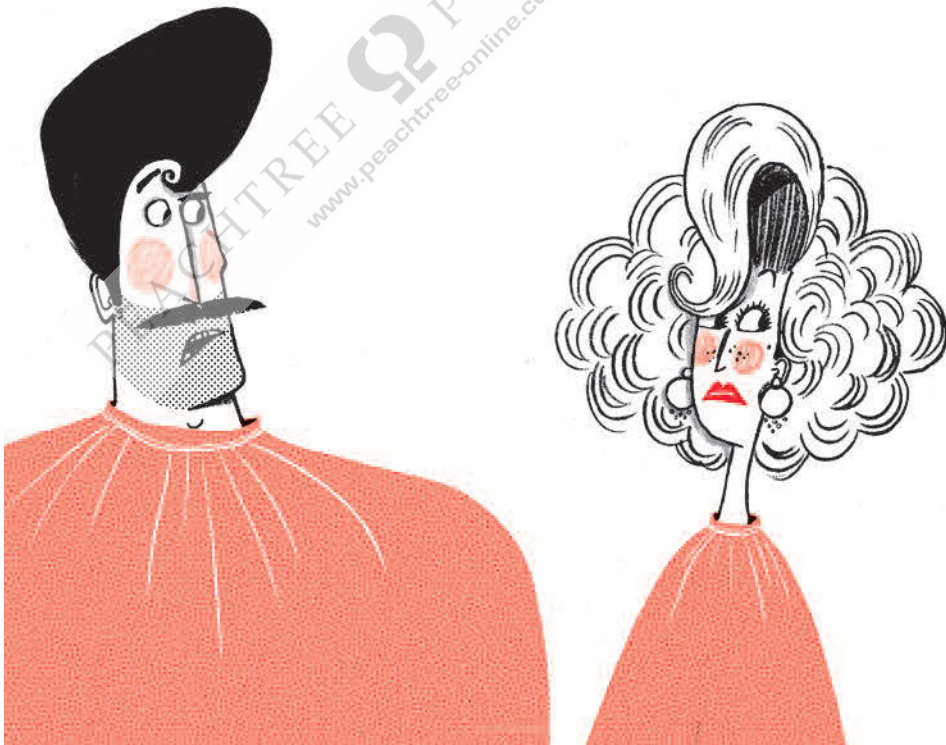


Alan had a terrifically stylish
toupee.



The next thing that needed to be done was make-up.

“We need them to look beautiful and very glamorous!” said Everard through his megaphone.



Claude thought faces weren't THAT different from coloring books. He also had some felt-tip pens, an emergency glue stick, and glitter in his beret.

As Everard dashed off to tell someone where they could put their bananas, Claude set to work.





The effect was rather striking.



“Erm-lovely,” said Everard, not quite as excitedly as Claude had hoped. “Let’s get into costumes and get this film started.”

The actors and Alan bustled off to their trailers to get changed.





When they emerged again, they looked like different people.

Claude clapped his paws together and Sir Bobblysock went a bit giddy at the sight of Gloria's sequins.

"Places, please!" cried Everard, and everyone hurried into position.

He handed Claude and Sir Bobblysock a list of jobs that needed to be done during the shoot.

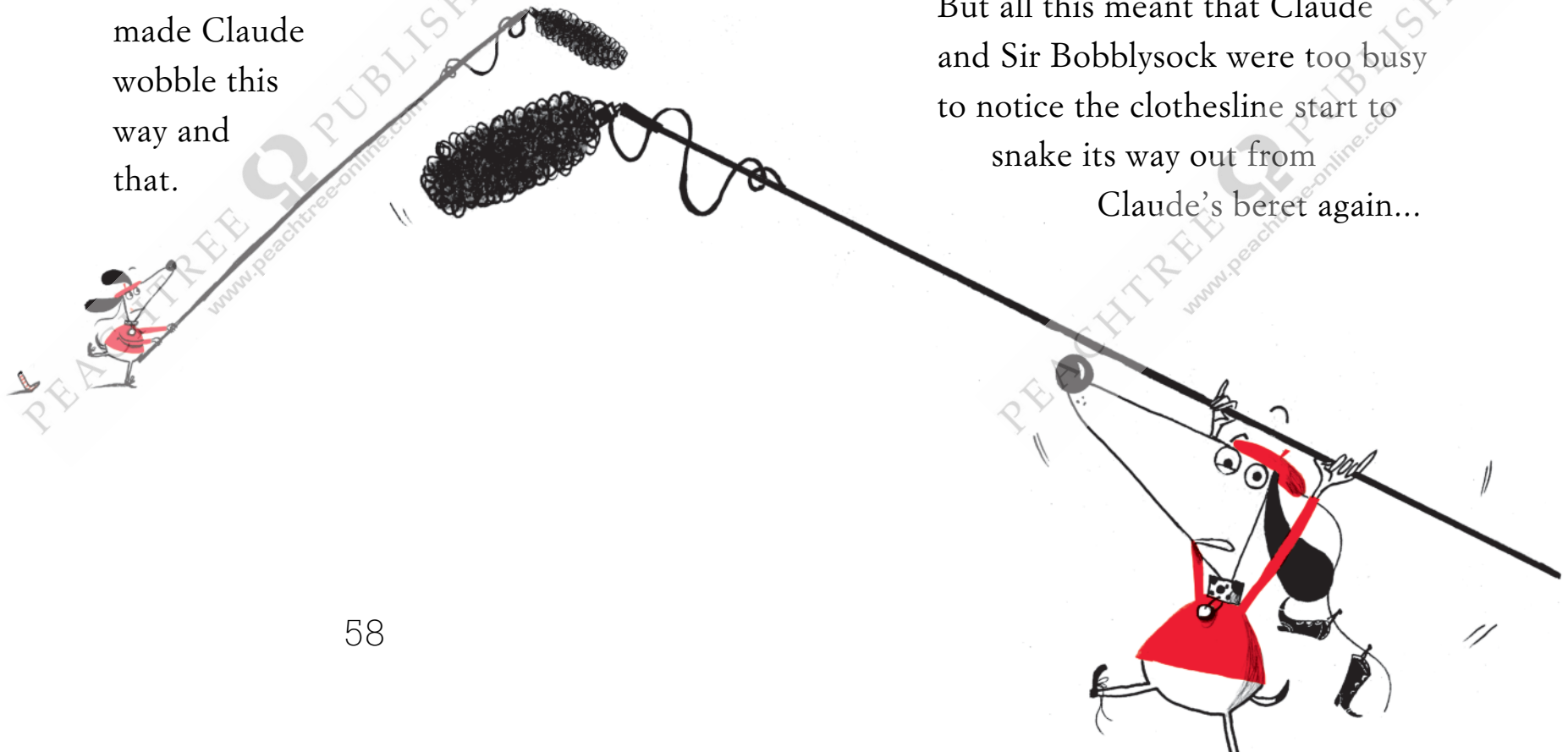


Chapter 6

The first thing was to hold a long microphone on a very long stick. It was ever so heavy and made Claude wobble this way and that.

He came VERY close to whacking a big piece of set. Luckily, Sir Bobblysock was on hand and a disaster was averted.

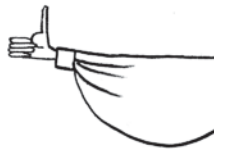
But all this meant that Claude and Sir Bobblysock were too busy to notice the clothesline start to snake its way out from Claude's beret again...



The next job was to
swish a large spotlight
about so that it
followed Alan as
he swung down
Waggy Avenue.

Well, that was easier said than
done. The light was so heavy,
Claude had to get Sir Bobblysock
to help, which he did.

Everard gave them a thumbs up.



Sir Bobblysock suddenly panicked. He thought he'd lost one of his contact lenses on the ground in all the excitement. Claude swung the light around so everyone could look for it. Then Sir Bobblysock remembered that he didn't actually wear contact lenses—he'd just read about someone who did in one of his magazines and got confused.



All this kerfuffle meant that no one noticed as a bit more of the clothesline slipped out and started to drag across the floor...



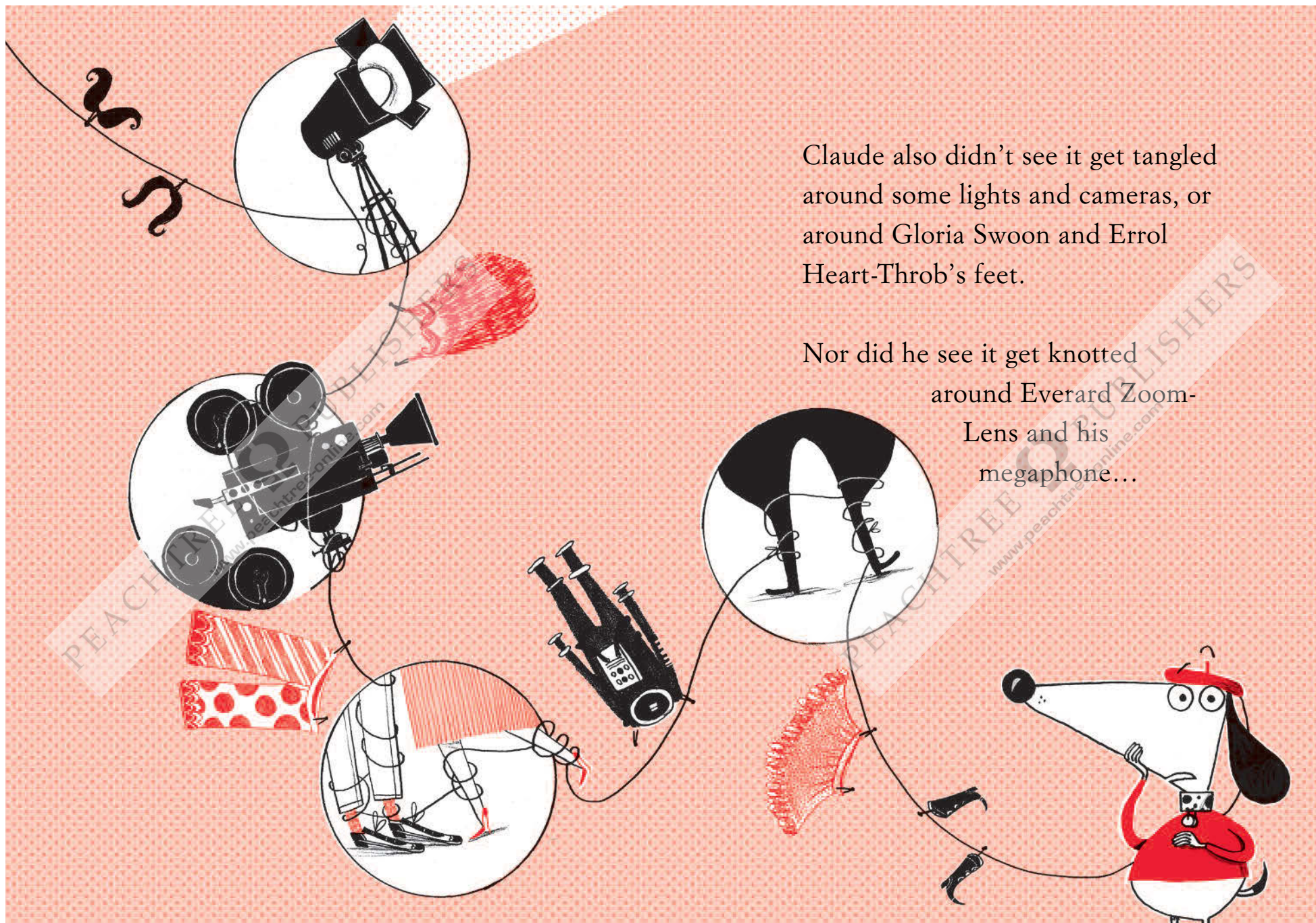
Soon it was time for the big final scene to be recorded—the bit where Alan had to swipe Gloria Swoon away from Errol Heart-Throb, just as he was giving her a big sloppy kiss, and then shimmy up the side of Miss Melons’s shop.



Claude and Sir Bobblysock dashed back to their seats so they could get a good view of the action.

But, in all the rush, Claude didn’t see the clothesline with all his costumes on it slip out from his beret completely.





Claude also didn't see it get tangled around some lights and cameras, or around Gloria Swoon and Errol Heart-Throb's feet.

Nor did he see it get knotted around Everard Zoom-Lens and his megaphone...



Just as Errol Heart-Throb leaned in to kiss Gloria Swoon and Alan the gorilla dragged her up the building, the clothesline pulled tight and...



OOOOF!

“Uh oh...” said Claude.

Sir Bobblysock had one
of his hot flashes and
had to whip out his fan.



Chapter 7

When the dust settled, it became clear that all wasn't well.

Gloria and Errol had both twisted their ankles and had to go straight to the hospital.

As everyone dashed about to fix the mess, Everard Zoom-Lens let out a wail through his crumpled megaphone.

"Whatever will we do now?" he said. "We can't make a film with our two lead actors in the hospital! It's a disaster! If only we had two look-alikes who could stand in for them."

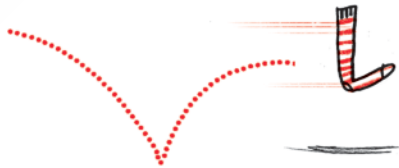
He slumped down in a chair and went ever so limp.



Claude looked at his feet and fiddled with the hem of his sweater. He'd accidentally caused this disaster with his clothesline full of costumes, and now he wanted to fix it. But what could he do?

Then he had an EXCELLENT idea!

"Sir Bobblysock and I could do it!"



Everard smiled sadly. "But you don't look a bit like Errol or Gloria."

Claude smiled a hearty grin and reached into his beret.

"Just you wait!" he said.



The result was
MARVELOUS!



“Goodness me!” cried Everard Zoom-Lens. “You look **JUST** like Errol and Gloria—no one will ever know the difference! Extraordinary! Quick—let’s get the cameras rolling! **ACTION!**”

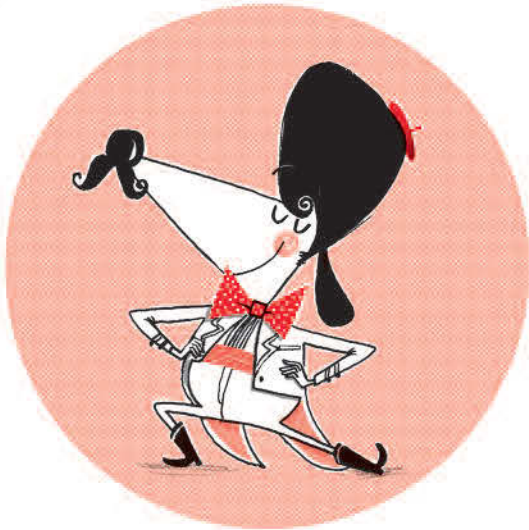
What an afternoon
Claude and Sir Bobblysock had!



OH NO!
I WILL
SAVE YOU!



Claude shouted
his lines in his best
Outdoor Voice
and he ran about
and lunged dramatically.



Sir Bobblysock turned out to be terribly
good at fluttering his eyelashes,
especially when Alan
the Gorilla was
giving him the
willies.



Miss Melons'

LOVELY PEAR
Fruit and Vegetable
Emporium



And when Claude
bravely rescued Sir
Bobblysock and carried
him safely down the ladder
to the ground, everyone
clapped and hooted.



82



After Everard had shouted
“CUT!” he trotted over to
Claude and Sir Bobblysock,
grinning from ear-to-ear.

“You were STUPENDOUS!”
he said. “Truly wonderful!
Won’t you come with us
to Hollywood and be
famous movie stars?”

But before Claude
could answer, there
came an enormous
sob from somewhere
above their heads.

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Chapter 8

It was Alan.

He was standing on top of the roof, crying and fussing with his bow tie.

“What’s the matter?”

cried Everard.

“I can’t get down,” said Alan between sobs.

“Use the ladder!”

said Everard.



But Alan wouldn’t.

If there was one thing he was more frightened of than heights, it was climbing down a ladder.

“Oh no!” said Miss Melons. “I can’t have my customers choosing their cabbages and picking their plums with a gigantic gorilla crying all over them!”

She was right, of course, but
Claude wondered if he could
help.

Was there some way of getting
Alan down that was fun and
not frightening?

Of course there was!



"Come on, Alan!" cried Claude from his trampoline.
"This is a lot of fun!"

He carried on bouncing while Alan nervously
shuffled closer to the edge.

Claude smiled his nice smile and
even wagged his tail encouragingly.

88

At last, Alan covered his eyes,
took a deep breath and...





...leapt!

BOING!

“A movie star AND a gorilla rescuer!” beamed Everard, joining Claude and Alan for a bounce. “Are you sure you won’t come and be a world famous actor?”

BOING!

BOING!

Claude thought about it. He certainly liked dressing up and acting, but he also liked puttering about at home. And after the wigs, the sequins, and being manhandled by a giant gorilla, Sir Bobblysock desperately needed one of his nice long lie downs.

Claude explained all of this to Everard Zoom-Lens. He was disappointed, but understood.

“But you **MUST** keep all of the wigs!” he said, thrusting the box into Claude’s paws. “You both did look **SO** fetching in them.”

Claude and Sir Bobblysock thanked Everard Zoom-Lens, waved goodbye to all their new friends, and went home.



Chapter 9

Later that evening, when Mr. and Mrs. Shinyshoes returned home from work, they were jolly surprised not only to find a gorilla asleep in their kitchen, but to see that both he and Claude were wearing wigs.

“Do you think Claude knows anything about all this?” asked Mrs. Shinyshoes.

“Don’t be silly!” said Mr. Shinyshoes. “Our Claude has been fast asleep all day.”

But Claude DID know something about it.

And we do too, don’t we?



*Keep your eyes open for Claude and Sir Bobblysock.
You never know where they'll turn up next.*



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A seaside holiday turns out to be more than Claude bargained for when he saves a swimmer, encounters pirates, and discovers treasure! HC: \$12.95 / 978-1-56145-703-8, PB: \$7.95 / 978-1-56145-919-3

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